

determining the vehicle deceleration that is to be effected by the brake system as a function of brake pedal actuation, and

changing a brake force acting in the system depending on at least one of actuating travel, actuating speed and acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated, wherein the brake force acting in the system corresponds to a ratio between at least one of the actuating travel, the actuating speed and the acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal, and a vehicle deceleration to be effected by the brake system.

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the detailed Final Office Action mailed 4/26/02 (Paper No. 10) and the Advisory Action mailed 6/26/02 (Paper No. 11). Additionally, a phone interview was conducted with the Examiner on August 28, 2002. The Examiner advised Applicant's representative that the phrase "brake assist function" required further recitation in the body of the claims. Although Applicant contends that the phrase "brake assist function" is clearly defined in the specification, Applicants have amended the independent claims to add further recitation to this phrase.

The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as filed. Furthermore, no new claims have been added. Thus, claims 12-22 are pending. Applicant thanks the Examiner for granting an Examiner's interview with Applicant's representative on August 28, 2002.

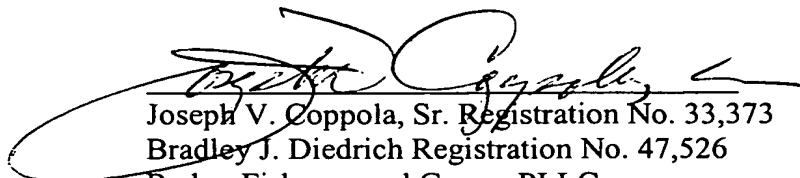
For at least the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention, as claimed, is patentable over the prior art. If the Examiner has any issues that he believes can be expedited by a telephone conference, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at his earliest convenience.

It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper, permission is given to charge account number 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman and Grauer PLLC.

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Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF ALL AMENDED CLAIMS

12. (Amended) A device for actuating a brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising:

a control unit for reducing at least one of a damping effect and a counterforce on a brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation,

a sensor for sensing brake pedal actuation, and

wherein the sensed brake pedal actuation is used by the control unit to determine the vehicle deceleration that is to be effected by the brake system.

16. (Amended) A device for actuating a brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising:

a control unit for changing a brake force acting in the system as a function of at least one of an actuating travel of a brake pedal as sensed by a brake pedal sensor, an actuating speed of the brake pedal and an acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation, and wherein the brake force acting in the system corresponds to a ratio between at least one of the determined actuating travel, the actuation speed and the acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal, and a vehicle deceleration to be effected by the brake system.

19. (Amended) A device for actuating a vehicle brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising:

a control unit for reducing at least one of a damping effect and a counterforce on a brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation,

a sensor for detecting brake pedal actuation, wherein the control unit is coupled to the sensor for determining the vehicle deceleration to be effected by the brake system, and wherein the control unit changes a brake force acting in the brake system depending on at least one of an actuating travel, an actuating speed and an acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated, the brake force acting

in the system corresponding to a ratio between at least one of the actuating travel, the actuating speed and the acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal, and the deceleration to be effected by the brake system.

20. (Amended) A method for actuating a vehicle brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising the steps of:

reducing at least one of a damping effect and a counterforce on a brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation, and

determining the vehicle deceleration which is to be effected by the brake system as a function of brake pedal actuation.

21. (Amended) A method for actuating a vehicle brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising the steps of:

changing a brake force acting in the system as a function of at least one of :

iv. an actuating travel of a brake pedal,

v. an actuating speed of the brake pedal and,

vi. an acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation, and

wherein the brake force acting in the system corresponds to a ratio between at least one of the actuating travel, the actuating speed and the acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal, and a vehicle deceleration to be effected by the brake system.

22. (Amended) A method for actuating a vehicle brake system to accomplish a brake assist function, comprising the steps of:

reducing at least one of a damping effect and a counterforce on a brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated to assist in a vehicle braking operation,

determining the vehicle deceleration that is to be effected by the brake system as a function of brake pedal actuation, and

changing a brake force acting in the system depending on at least one of actuating travel, actuating speed and acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal when the brake assist function is activated, wherein the brake force acting in the system corresponds to

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a ratio between at least one of the actuating travel, the actuating speed and the acceleration of actuation of the brake pedal, and a vehicle deceleration to be effected by the brake system.